United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNPROFOR mandate until 31 March 1994, following Friday decision on 4-day extension; authorizes UNPROFOR, acting in self-defence, to use force to ensure its security and freedom of movement in Croatia.

+ Secretary-General deplores downing of two United States Quick Reaction Force helicopters in Somalia; says United Nations will not be deterred from implementing Security Council mandate; UNOSOM II detains 21 suspects in Mogadishu operation.

+ Burundi, Cape Verde, Cambodia, Cuba, United Arab Emirates, Syria, Iran and Slovakia among speakers in General Assembly's general debate today.

+ Malaysia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Ireland, Burkina Faso, Sri Lanka, Congo and Mali among speakers in general debate on Friday.

+ France, United Kingdom and United States table draft resolution on tightening of Security Council sanctions against Libya; Secretary-General to meet this evening with Libyan Foreign Minister regarding implementation of resolution 731 (1992).

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Acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council today decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) until 31 March 1994. The Council authorized UNPROFOR, in carrying out its mandate in Croatia and acting in self-defence, to take the necessary measures, including the use of force, to ensure its security and freedom of movement. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 871 (1993). The Council had decided on Friday, in resolution 870 (1993), to extend UNPROFOR's mandate for four days.

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The Council once more condemned continuing military attacks within Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and reaffirmed its commitment to ensure respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of those Republics, and of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where UNPROFOR was deployed.

The Council reaffirmed the crucial importance of full and prompt implementation of the United Nations peace-keeping plan for Croatia, including the provisions concerning the demilitarization of the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs), and called on all concerned, particularly the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), to cooperate in its full implementation. The Council declared that non-cooperation in the implementation of its resolutions, or external interference in respect of full implementation of the peace-keeping plan for Croatia, would have serious consequences. The Council said full normalization of the international community's position towards those concerned would take into account their actions in implementing all relevant resolutions.

The resolution called for an immediate cease-fire agremeent between the Croatian Government and the local Serb authorities in the UNPAS, mediated under the auspices of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, and urged them to cooperate fully in its implementation. The Council stressed the importance of the restoration of Croatia's authority in the "pink zones", and called for the revival of the Joint Commission established under the chairmanship of UNPRFOR.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report in two months on progress towards implementation of the Croatia peace-keeping plan and relevant resolutions, taking into account the Croatian Government's position, and decided to reconsider UNPROFOR's mandate in the light of that report.

The Secretary-General had recently recommended that the Council renew the Force's mandate for six months. However, the Croatian Government had stated that it could not accept prolongation of the mandate without major changes based on existing Council resolutions and reports of the Secretary-General, particularly the "Vance Plan".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today deplored an incident in Somalia on Sunday in which two helicopters from the United States Quick Reaction Force were shot down by armed gunmen. Five United States soldiers were killed and a number were wounded, bringing total United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) casualties to 66 dead and over 200 wounded.

The latest incident would not deter the United Nations from implementing its mandate in Somalia as authorized by the Security Council, the Secretary-General stated. The humanitarian and political objectives of that mandate would be pursued vigorously and, where conditions permitted, the pace of their implementation would be accelerated. He said the international community would continue to work with the Somali people to prevent a return to the chaos and anarchy which had cost over 300,000 people their lives.

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In a related development, Special Representative Jonathan Howe said that United Nations troops had yesterday launched an operation designed to apprehend a number of General Mohammad Farah Aidid's key aides who were suspected of complicity in the 5 June attack on Pakistani peace-keepers and subsequent attacks on United Nations personnel. The latest such attack had occurred yesterday morning, when a military vehicle had been blown up, killing a Somali-American interpreter and injuring three United States soldiers.

Admiral Howe said the operation had apprehended 21 suspects, including some key opponents of the implementation of United Nations mandates, but had cost some Somali and UNOSOM II casualties. He paid tribute to the valour of the personnel involved.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman said that one Malaysian soldier had been killed in Somalia today and six Malaysian and two Pakistani soldiers wounded, while assisting United States troops who were under attack.

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The President of Burundi, Melchior Ndadaye, this morning told the General Assembly that the people of his country, having held free, pluralist elections on 1 June, took pride in having taken control of their own history. He said they hoped profoundly that there would never again be any bloodshed caused by ethnic confrontation. Side by side, people from all ethnic backgrounds, all regions and various political persuasions were working together to ensure that Burundi's democratization was irreversible. He also appealed to the international community to give his country the help it needed to repatriate and resettle the thousands of refugees who had fled to other countries.

He deplored the flow of finance from the South to North, and said that greater regional coordination and solidarity was needed. It was high time that the peoples of the third world no longer directed a childlike attention to the outside world, and that they explored their own capacities for self-centred and self-maintained development, using their own advantages to meet their own needs. International solidarity, he said, could only be efficient if it operated in a radically new context of self responsibility, and for bringing about mutually profitable exchange.

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The President of Cape Verde, Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro, said in the general debate today that the situation in which migrant workers found themselves in certain States was as important an issue as the protection of minority rights. Given that Cape Verde's emigrant community abroad was larger than the island's resident population, he was deeply concerned about the increasing difficulties facing migrant workers, including those in some developing countries. The worsening economic situation had brought worsening discrimination against such workers and the implementation of policies depriving them of hard-won rights. Many had been expelled from countries where they had worked for a long time and to whose economies they had made a major contribution.

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Human rights, he said, could not be adequately protected and promoted if many countries continued to live on the periphery of development and their populations continued to endure extreme poverty. He supported calls for the democratization of Africa, but emphasized that the promotion of democracy called for more than setting up formal democratic mechanisms and guarantees. Its consolidation and full acceptance by all segments of the population required a favourable internal economic climate that made living conditions better for all, he said.

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His Royal Highness Sdech Krom Luong Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister of Cambodia, today expressed profound thanks for the success of the United Nations operation in his country, which had brought peace, freedom, independence and democracy. He told the General Assembly that that success had been based on the will of the international community to save Cambodia, and on the will of the Cambodian people to save their homeland. The peace process continued to advance in accordance with the Paris Peace Agreeements, he said. Free and fair elections had been held and the outcome had been most encouraging for the future of democracy. A new Constitution had been drafted, setting up a Constitutional Monarchy in which the people were the sole source of State powers. The Royal Government would ensure stability and peace for reconstruction and development.

The "Khmer Rouge group" would be welcomed into the Royal Army and the Royal Government as advisors, he continued. In return, it must dismantle its administration, its army and its zones to become part of a unified and indivisible Cambodia. The country needed international aid, he added. Among the measures required were the establishment of a United Nations Integrated Office in Phnom Penh; the maintenance of representation by specialized agencies; the establishment of a Human Rights Centre; the continuation of demining operations; and the maintenance of a team of unarmed military observers to help with confidence-building among the Cambodian people.

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Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, Cuba's Minister of Foreign Affairs, told the General Assembly today that the United Nations was not democratic, and that there was nothing more insecure on Earth than the Security Council. Warning that the Council could become a docile instrument in the hands of a few Powers, he said the veto privilege should be eliminated, one category of membership should be established in accordance with the principle of sovereign equality of States, and members should be subject to periodic democratic elections. Council membership should be expanded and the principle of equitable geographical representation should be applied. He said measures should be adopted to ensure a balance between the Council and the Assembly regarding the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security.

The Foreign Minister went on to say that the United States' "inhuman blockade" of Cuba had been reinforced in the last few months, in defiance of

an Assembly resolution regarding the need for its ending. The extra-territorial nature of the blockade had increased and pressure was on the rise. Cuba was being prevented from buying drugs necessary for its health and resources necessary for its well-being. "To live in a sovereign and unyielding country is a crime for which two million children are threatened to pay with their lives," he said, adding that there would be "no possible absolution for those who commit or support this genocide".

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The Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Rashid Abdullah Al-Nuaimi, said this morning that the events in the Gulf after the liberation of Kuwait had produced a new political reality which reinforced the importance of settling disputes through negotiation and other peaceful means. Guided by those principles, his country had expressed its readiness to enter into direct negotiations with Iran with regard to its occupation in 1971 of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which, he said, belonged to the United Arab Emirates.

The Iraqi regime, he continued, was following a policy of procrastination in implementing Security Council resolutions. The international community must oblige the regime to implement them, to respect the territorial integrity of Kuwait and to refrain from reasserting its expansionist aims. He also called for the international community to pressure the Iraqi regime to immediately release all Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners of war and detainees. He welcomed the agreement reached between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel as the first step towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that such a settlement should enable the Palestinian people to exercise the right of self-determination and should bring about a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan.

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Farouk Al-Shara, Foreign Minister of Syria, said in the general debate today that Arabs and Muslims had the right to wonder why they were slandered merely because some individuals committed a terrorist act against Western targets. He said no such slander was directed against those who were responsible for terrorist acts against thousands of Arab victims in the Occupied Territories and the south of Lebanon. The time had come, he added, for an awakening of the Western conscience and for an objective tackling of the sensitive issues affecting the dignity of peoples and the sovereignty of States.

Syria, he continued, had played a fundamental role in the convening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid. For peace to be accepted by all the peoples involved, it had to be just, to include the return of all occupied Arab territories and to achieve stability and security for all in the region. Syrians did not overestimate the weight of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, he said, because each provision needed new negotiations and because of its probable repercussions, given the sharp divisions it had created in the "Palestinian arena". The most serious threat to the peace process, he added,

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was caused by Israeli attempts to give the impression that peace had been achieved in the region through the signing of the agreement, and that the international community, particularly the Arab countries, had to behave accordingly.

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Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's Minister for Foreign Affairs, told the General Assembly today that the Security Council's failure to face the Palestinian crisis and the constant aggressions against the Palestinian people, Lebanon and Syria, and its failures to enforce its own resolutions, showed the prevailing preference for political interests over peace, security, international law and equity. With the support of powerful States, Israel had totally disregarded Council resolutions, pursued a militaristic policy and persisted in aggression. Peace and stability could only return to the Middle East through even-handed treatment and the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, he said. Iran rejected the recently signed Accord as a conspiracy against Islam and Palestine.

The Bosnian tragedy was more evidence of the consequences of the Security Council's acquiescence in aggression, the Foreign Minister said. The Council had failed to fulfil its international responsibility and had even deprived the victims of the means to defend themselves, he said, adding that the arms embargo against the Bosnian Government should be lifted. He noted that Article 24 of the Charter conferred primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security on the Council in order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations. The Council acted on behalf of the membership of the Organization and was therefore accountable to the entire Membership gathered in the General Assembly, he stressed.

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Jozef Moravcik, Foreign Minister of the Slovak Republic, said this afternoon in the general debate that the decision of the Geneva Conference to seek a nuclear test ban treaty was a signal for the whole non-proliferation regime. Slovakia supported the universality and indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and hoped that the question of the nuclear arsenal of the former Soviet Union would be speedily resolved in the same spirit of non-proliferation. He said that the proposed enlargement of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament provided the chance for the Slovak Republic to become a member, and that the proposal should be adopted as soon as possible.

Mr. Moravcik said his country supported the establishment of a United Nations high commissioner for human rights. With civilian populations increasingly being targeted in internal conflicts, it was necessary that States and parties to conflicts strictly observe the rules and principles of international humanitarian law. He expressed support for efforts to bring those who had committed such crimes to justice and for the establishment of an international criminal court. He also called on the international community to formulate appropriate rules and standards to regulate large-scale population movements, while seeking solutions for the causes and consequences.

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Mahathir Bin Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, told the General Assembly on Friday that according to the stereotypical Western concept of a third world country, his country should be politically unstable and economically depressed. Yet it was stable, despite the multi-racial time-bomb inherited from a colonial past, and was able to run its affairs. To attract foreign investment Malaysia needed a reputation for stability and competence. When investors heard that it would explode in racial violence, they were likely to invest elsewhere, even though such statements were false.

While democracy was being promoted as the only acceptable system of government, it was eschewed by the United Nations itself, the Prime Minister said, citing the veto power of permanent members of the Security Council. It was unacceptable for each of them to be more powerful than the whole membership, and the veto should go. He went on to say that Malaysia believed in the universality of human rights, but not the irresponsible variety propounded by the West. Human rights was not a license to do anything regardless of the rights of others. A society had a right to protect itself from the unbridled exercise of rights by individuals or minorities which, in the West, had aided the collapse of morality and the social structure. Malaysia took exception to preachings on human rights from people who condoned ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Herzegovina. "Until they redeem themselves there, all their talk of human rights sounds hollow," he said.

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Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, told the General Assembly on Friday that her country's success as a democracy depended largely on the alleviation of poverty. Nurturing democracy in third world countries required sincere cooperation from the industrialized countries. The concept of the "human development index" was inadequate as it did not capture the indigenous cultures and values of different civilizations, and a new dimension should be added to the development framework of the less developed countries. International rule of law was vital for the security of small and weak States, she said, stressing the importance of a river water convention, the law of the sea, environmental protection and universal acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

The ecological balance of the planet was being disrupted, but the blame was being shifted to the developing countries, she continued. However, their capacity to pollute was insignificant, and the major responsibility for prevention lay with the developed countries. Bangladesh called on donor countries to pay attention to its indigenous initiatives and development programmes while providing assistance. Unrealistic conditions created unnecessary obstacles to development. A State could not become self-reliant through external aid alone, and what was really needed was liberalization of trade.

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Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, said that with the end of East-West confrontation, disarmament and security issues had acquired a new dimension. He welcomed the conclusion of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II) between the United States and the Russian Federation and stressed the importance of regional dialogues on security. The Regional Forum of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), for one, would give South-East Asian nations and extraregional Powers a regular opportunity to exchange views and consult on security issues of common concern.

International economic cooperation and development should be given top priority on the international agenda, Mr. Alatas continued. He called for the reactivation of a constructive dialogue between the North and South based on genuine interdependence and mutual responsibility. Urgent action was needed to bring debt relief to the least developed countries. The debt crisis caused poverty and underdevelopment which, in turn, gave rise to internal political instability. Referring to the World Conference on Human Rights, he said he disagreed with the use of human rights as political conditions for economic cooperation. He also questioned the feasibility of establishing a post of high commissioner for human rights.

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Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, told the General Assembly on Friday that a significant improvement in the United Nations' finances was urgently needed. He appealed to all Member States in arrears, especially those on the Security Council, to comply with their financial obligations under the United Nations Charter. Ireland participated in 10 of the 14 United Nations peace-keeping operations, and a significant proportion of its armed forces were engaged in those duties, he continued. Mechanisms were needed to allow peace-keeping mandates to be implemented in an effective, transparent and humane manner. It was imperative to keep peace-keeping and peace-enforcement operations in an overall political framework and to use every opportunity for reconciliation.

Citing developments in the Israeli and Palestinian relationship and in South Africa, Mr. Spring said that progress was possible even in the most obdurate of conflicts. Northern Ireland presented a similar challenge to the United Kingdom and Ireland. Traditional approaches had failed and new thinking was needed. The Irish Government was willing to look afresh at its traditional assumptions and at its relationships with others, and to accept the need for radical compromise. Both traditions in Ireland must find a way to share the island on a basis of partnership and trust. Peace and stability would not be found in any political system which was imposed, or which was rejected by a substantial part of the population, he noted.

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Thomas Sanon, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, told the General Assembly on Friday that the international community continued to be subjected to the adverse effects of East-West confrontation. The North-South rift had been highlighted, and long-standing wounds had been left gaping. The economic scenario was sombre and developing countries continued to be disadvantaged. Africa was staggering from one calamity to another, and structural adjustment had not overcome the continent's marginalization. The solutions to the problems were well known, he said, adding that Africa awaited implementation of an "agenda for development".

The global village was a living reality and affected the concept of security, he continued. Legislation had been passed to stem immigration into the developed world, but there was a refusal to understand that the source of that problem lay in socio-economic inequities. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations must take account of the needs of developing countries. Fundamental human rights must not be compromised in the arena of economic policies, he continued. There was a need to defend all people or none at all. In the next two years, the international community would confront the problems of population, the promotion of women's rights and social development at conferences in Cairo, Beijing and Copenhagen. It was essential that all those problems be confronted, Mr. Sanon stressed.

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A.C. Shahul Hameed, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, said in the General Assembly on Friday that the rising tide of racism in many countries must be checked. Security was multi-dimensional, and must take account of economic crises, poverty and hunger, mass migrations, international terrorism and global environmental pollution. Those demanded a revitalization of the United Nations role on the basis of the accepted principles of its Charter. United Nations intervention in national disputes must be considered only at the request of the State concerned, he said, and indigenous peace efforts must be respected, encouraged and given time for fruition.

Sri Lanka was committed to social welfare and parliamentary democracy, he continued. For many years, it had virtually no defence budget, and when terrorism broke out, many thought it would disintegrate. However, the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, an act of terrorism aimed at destabilizing the country, was followed by the peaceful transfer of power within 24 hours to the new President, Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, vindicating the strength of the constitutional and democratic system. He stressed that the Government had never wavered from its objective of seeking a political solution to the conflict in the north-east. Sri Lanka was well on the road to attaining "newly industrialized economy" status, he noted. In a multi-ethnic, multicultural society, sustained economic growth was the best way to combat divisive forces.

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Benjamin Bounkoulou, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Congo, told the General Assembly on Friday that the democratic process in his country had been very bumpy as a consequence of 25 years of totalitarian rule. Three weeks after the formation of a new Government, Parliament had been suspended. After several attempts at conciliation, a vote had been held with international observers. But the opposition, which lost the election, had contested the results, disrupting the institutional process. The right to civil disobedience was a constitutional right, but was not meant to destroy the social and economic fabric of the country.

Economic reforms had been disrupted by the political and social instability, he continued. If reforms were to be sustained, financial aid was needed. The crisis in the Congo was similar to situations in other African countries, which were suffering under the weight of foreign debt. He noted that France had agreed to partially relieve the debt of the Congo and other middle-income countries, and called for more innovative North-South relations. The economic crisis particularly affected his country, he said, causing juvenile delinquency, drug trafficking and AIDS. Economic and social development also depended on attention to the environment, as well as the promotion of human rights, he added.

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Mohamed Alhousseini Toure, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali, said in the general debate on Friday t4at his country had embarked on a democratic process in 1991, although progress had been impeded by economic difficulties. Instability in the region, refugees, and the slow pace of growth were all challenges. Comprehensive financing for development was essential to support the democratization and political evolution of the country. He went on to say that the United Nations was weighed down with peace-keeping operations. Ethnic clashes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere were setting alarming precedents and draining available resources. The efforts of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) must be aimed at silencing the guns, he stressed.

Production and consumption patterns were being revised on a global level in accordance with priorities and goals set at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Foreign Minister continued. The revitalization of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was crucial, particularly in the context of the problems of desertification and drought. Greater democratization and equitable representation of all the players on the world's stage would help make the United Nations more dynamic in effecting development planning, he added.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of France, the United Kingdom and the United States, who informed him of their positions on the question of Libya.

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They confirmed that they had tabled a draft resolution on the tightening of sanctions against Libya, and said that they were in the process of consulting with the members of the Security Council, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to meet this evening with the Libyan Foreign Minister to continue consultations within the context of his efforts to seek the speedy implementation of Security Council resolution 731 (1992).

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses satisfaction at developments in Cambodia since May elections, citing proclamation of Constitution and creation of new Government; hails successful completion of UNTAC mandate.

- Cyprus, Bulgaria, Liechtenstein, Jordan, Algeria, Kazakhstan and Panama among speakers in General Assembly's general debate today.

- Saint Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay, Qatar, Togo, Maldives and Ethiopia among speakers in general debate on Monday.

- Secretary-General, in review of functioning of United Nations, says pace of renewal must accelerate, with emphasis on peacemaking and peace-keeping operations; stresses need for better coordination, budgetary planning, management control and auditing.

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The Security Council today expressed satisfaction at the auspicious developments that had taken place in Cambodia since elections were held there last May, particularly the proclamation last month of the Cambodian Constitution and the creation of a new Government. In a statement read out by its President, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg (Brazil), the Council congratulated King Norodom Sihanouk on his accession to the throne and paid tribute to his continuing role in the quest for national reconcilition and a better future for all Cambodians. The Council also thanked Prince Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister of Cambodia, and Hun Sen, Second Prime Minister, for their presence at its meeting.

The Council reiterated its recognition of the remarkable work of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in successfully completing its mandate, under the leadership of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi. The Council stressed the importance of the continued support of the international community to the consolidation of peace and democracy and the promotion of development in Cambodia.

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The Council said it would continue to study the situation in Cambodia and would consider what action it should take, taking into account the letter dated 26 September addressed to the Secretary-General by Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen, and the Secretary-General's further report on the implementation of Council resolution 745 (1992).

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Glafcos Clerides, President of Cyprus, said in an address to the General Assembly today that his country had consistently made the principles of the United Nations Charter central to its foreign policy. Members had a common responsibility to strengthen the Organization to meet current challenges and to improve the prospects for peace, prosperity and democracy. Those expectations could only be met through the implementation of United Nations resolutions and mandatory provisions of the Charter. Failure to uphold international law and human rights, or upholding them in one situation and ignoring violations in another, must no longer be acceptable.

The promotion of human rights was inseparable from democratization, the President continued. He said he was especially sensitive on that subject as a large component of the Cyprus problem was the massive violation of the human rights of persons evicted from their homes by the "Turkish forces of occupation". Turkey had committed flagrant violations of human rights despite General Assembly and Security Council resolutions calling on all Member States to respect the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic, to avoid actions which could change the population's demographic composition, and to withdraw all foreign forces and allow for the safe return of refugees. If a lasting solution to the problem was to be found, and a federally united state established, concerted action would be required by the international community, he stated.

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Zhelyu Zhelev, President of Bulgaria, told the General Assembly today that democratic changes in Eastern Europe had added an element of dynamism to the building of European unity. Democracy in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union was of great importance in international life, and Bulgaria fully supported the reform-minded and democratic forces in the Russian Federation. Recent events in Moscow showed how difficult the transition to democracy could be and the risks that were entailed. He urged the United Nations to provide moral, political and financial support to nations in transition.

The United Nations must take energetic steps to end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to prevent other conflicts from flaring up in the former Yugoslavia, the President said. Bulgaria supported the constructive engagement of the United States, notably the preventive stationing of troops under the United Nations flag in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Bulgaria had suffered severe economic losses by implementing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Macedonia), and those losses had thwarted economic reform and jeopardized the democratic process and social peace. He stressed the need for a mechanism to compensate Member States who

had suffered because of their strict implementation of Security Council sanctions, and proposed such measures as stand-by agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), help with debt servicing, and the provision of financing for infrastructure projects.

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Prince Hans-Adam II, Head of State of Liechtenstein, said in the general debate this morning that while tensions within and between communities might be an inevitable part of the human condition, it was vitally important that ways be found to relieve them peacefully, without bloodshed. The principle of self-determination, he stated, offered a basis for some solutions. Its value had been demonstrated in the context of decolonization. Applied to communities within States, allowing for different levels of autonomy according to circumstances, it could defuse many of the tensions which were such a potent source of conflict. He suggested that eventually those principles could be elaborated in a convention, for general application.

A significant degree of interest had been shown in the concept, he said. Liechtenstein welcomed the inclusion in the agenda of the current General Assembly session of an item entitled "Effective realization of the right of self-determination through autonomy". Great difficulties would arise in its consideration, he said, but the danger and suffering caused by tensions within communities made it essential that the international community open up new thinking on the subject, to find effective means to promote the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter.

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Crown Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, addressing the General Assembly this afternoon, said that there was considerable alarm in the Muslim world at suggestions that Islam might replace Communism as a global threat, depicting it as a monolithic creed of violence, intolerance and oppression. Extremism did exist in the Muslim world, as it did amongst all groups, he said, but extremism was caused by disparities and despair. The real enemy, he stressed, were the politics and economics of exclusivity, "a new world of each for himself". The strongest defence against that would be a global business ethic based on mutual inter-dependence, that required striving for unity while never seeking to eradicate or compromise diversity.

Turning to the peace process with Israel, he said that some issues could not be addressed by any two parties to the exclusion of others. The status of Jerusalem had to determined in such a way as to guarantee the legitimate rights the three monotheistic faiths shared in the city. The question of regional security, water, and -- above all - the refugees, had to resolved with direct reference to the neighbouring States. Jordan had shouldered an enormous human load as a result of the conflict, providing shelter and succour to three waves of involuntary migrants, and it sought an equitable, sustainable international approach to the treatment of its demographic burden.

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Mohamed Salah Dembri, the Foreign Minister of Algeria, today called on the General Assembly to give decisive impetus in this session to the preparation of an international convention for the prevention and repression of terrorism. The international community, he said, must mobilize its energy to overcome "this modern form of barbarity" in all its manifestations. With respect to international terrorism, he said that Algeria would not tolerate any intereference from outside with its internal affairs. While respecting all forms of human rights, the country was currently in a situation which obliged the State to give priority to protecting the fundamental right to life and security of person. In that context, the restoration of public order and the struggle against terrorism were part of its determination to guarantee a lasting democracy based on the rule of law, on alternation and on the principles of a republic.

As part of the future of the Arab world, Algeria fervently hoped that the elimination of the consequences of the Gulf war would open the way to inter-Arab reconciliation, he said. Iraq had undertaken to meet fully all the obligations stemming from Security Council resolutions and international law had established a geographic framework for peaceful neighbourliness between Iraq and Kuwait. He expressed the hope that those developments would allow the resolution of pending humanitarian questions, so that the collective consciousness of the Arab people could be spared the horrors of war.

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Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister, Touleutai Suleimenov, told the General Assembly today that his country proposed the creation of a system of collective security in Asia within the framework of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). To that end, Kazakhstan had hosted two rounds of expert-level meetings in Almaty which had produced promising results. At present, 25 Asian States were involved in the CICA process. He invited other States interested in contributing to confidence-building measures in Asia to join the effort.

The Minister said the Defence Coalition Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States had reduced the scale of military confrontation in the Tajik conflict, and should be recognized as the United Nations peacemaking force in the region. He went on to say that Asian States should coordinate their efforts with regard to environmental issues. The critical situation in the region of the Aral sea had been discussed at international conferences and meetings, resulting in important documents defining short-term and strategic solutions to the problems. Kazakhstan wholeheartedly supported a comprehensive nuclear test ban, having suffered considerable damage as a result of tests at the now-closed Semipalatinsk Testing Ground. Kazakhstan also attached great importance to cooperation with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, he said, adding that membership in the United Nations had allowed the country to become actively involved in international life.

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Carlos Arosemena, Panama's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, told the General Assembly today that drug addiction had become the main scourge of humanity. Panama and all other States had a duty to repress drug trafficking and resulting money laundering activities. Tackling drug-related crimes required effective international cooperation, he said. To that end, Panama had signed the Treaty for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Affairs with the United States in 1991, and the Agreement for Mutual Legal Cooperation on Drug Trafficking with the United Kingdom this year.

In the year 2000, Mr. Arosemena continued, Panama would host the Ibero-American Chiefs of State Summit. It would also attain its most important legal and political objective: the recovery of its right over the Panama Canal and the freeing of its territory from the jurisdictional limitations imposed by the now-defunct Hay-Bunau Varilla Treaty. The present Panama Canal Treaty would expire on 31 December 1993 and Panama would thereafter manage, operate and maintain the Canal. It would also be legally bound to manage the Canal efficiently. In order to handle projected traffic, a high-level lock system would have to be build in the next century. Panama would need the cooperation of the international community for such a project, he said, given the Canal's importance to international trade.

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Kennedy Simmonds, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis, said in the general debate yesterday that membership in the United Nations was neither a deterrent to reunification, as illustrated in the case of Germany, nor to fragmentation, as in the case of the Soviet Union. The Organization operated most effectively by a process of inclusion, rather than exclusion. He called on the United Nations "to begin the process which would eventually lead to the admission of the Republic of China on Taiwan into the Organization", saying that it had had proven itself to be a country dedicated to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

He emphasized the vulnerability of the Caribbean's ecosystem and the need for constant vigilance with respect to its protection and preservation. He strongly condemned the transboundary movement of toxic waste and hazardous and nuclear materials through the Caribbean Basin, and called on the industrialized countries to refrain from exporting their waste to or through the region. He appealed to the industrialized countries and multilateral agencies to be more rational and sensitive to the developmental needs of the developing world, especially those of island communities, in their approach to dealing with the environment.

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Sergio Abreu, Uruguay's Foreign Minister, said in the General Assembly yesterday that his country was concerned about the obstacles blocking the conclusion the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). After seven long years of negotiations, certain trends continued to obstruct the process of multilateralization. Uruguay once again rejected the protectionist policies applied by some highly industrialized countries, he

said, stressing that these were incompatible with the rules of GATT and with the stand-still commitments.

Regarding peace-keeping, he said Uruguay had offered to host regional training centres for the peace-keeping forces. However, he was concerned that those operations would be discontinued due to the delays in payment of Members' contributions, and that only countries with vast financial resources could participate in peace-keeping operations. He believed that a policy of collective security must be supplemented by a policy of disarmament and a ban on nuclear weapons by all nations. He noted that Argentina, Brazil and Chile had implemented regional agreements to ensure peaceful use of nuclear energy and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

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Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, told the General Assembly yesterday that arms limitation in the Middle East should be given priority in order to maintain peace and stability in the region. Funds released as a result could be channelled into economic and social development, on the condition that all the States of the region would benefit. Qatar also supported all initiatives aimed at making the Middle East a region free of nuclear weapons.

Addressing the problem of indebtedness was the first essential step towards strengthening the economies of developing countries, he continued. Rich creditor States should, once and for all, solve that problem in favour of developing countries, particularly in Africa. He said the environment had become a high priority and an integral part of national interests and security. However, it was important to identify sources of pollution and the relationship between the environment and economic development. The imposition of an energy tax on exporting countries was unjust considering the pollution caused by sources such as coal, whose negative environmental effects exceeded those of oil.

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Ouattara Fambare Natchaba, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo, told the General Assembly yesterday that Togo's path to democratization had been a very painful one. Violence had ravaged the entire country and had led to displacements of population. But following the elections held on 25 August of this year, it was hoped that the country would recover its national health. He expressed appreciation for the role played by friendly countries in helping resolve the crisis situation in Togo.

In an overview of developments in Africa, he said he hoped that the lifting of sanctions against South Africa would promote the progress being made in dismantling the apartheid system. He welcomed the prospect of a genuine settlement of the conflicts in Liberia and Rwanda, and the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement the United Nations settlement plan for Western Sahara. He called for the cancellation or substantial reduction of the debt carried by Africa and said that after the "lost decade" of the 1980s,

the 1990 should witness an increase in development aid, particularly in view of the transition to democracy in many developing countries.

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Fathulla Jameel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, said in the general debate yesterday that the international community needed to examine why it had failed to stop the carnage taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also expressed concern about the continued violations of human rights taking place in Angola and Somalia. The United Nations was learning a very expensive lesson, in terms of human life and financial resources, in providing humanitarian assistance and in seeking to protect the people of those countries.

North-South dialogue should be reactivated on a new basis, he said, focusing on common interests, benefits and shared responsibilities. Similarly, South-South cooperation must be intensified, with the pooling of resources and concrete development efforts in the framework of collective self-reliance and support for open trading systems. He went on to stress his Government's belief that sustainable development was the only way to guarantee continued life on earth and he called on all States to ratify the Climate Convention and the Bio-diversity Convention. As a small island State, he said, his country regarded the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States as a very important step towards solving the unique problems faced in their developmental efforts.

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Seyoum Mesfin, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the transitional Government of Ethiopia, said in the general debate yesterday that in a brief period of two years, Ethiopia had emerged from a state of desperation to recovery. The country now looked to the future with considerable confidence. He welcomed Eritrea as a Member of the United Nations and said that the two countries had taken steps to forge a new era of close relationship and cooperation. The vision of the Ethiopian and Eritrean leadership and peoples was for economic, social and cultural integration, leading to political integration on a new plane, and expansion of the process to include the countries of the subregion.

He went on to say that the problem of refugees and persons displaced by a host of calamities continued to haunt the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia continued to face immense difficulties, whose solutions were beyond the scope of its own meagre resources. He said the principles for the delivery of humanitarian assistance agreed to at the Horn of Africa Conference in Addis Ababa last year should be observed, to ensure that relief assistance reached the needy. He also appealed to all Member States to fully support efforts to elaborate an international convention to combat desertification.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the pace of renewal of the United Nations must accelerate and that high priority will continue to be given to the increased demands for peacemaking, peace-keeping and related operations. In a review of the administrative and financial functioning of the Organization dated 29 September, he stressed the need for greater coordination within an integrated structure, improved budgetary planning, management control and auditing. Ensuring the safety and security of staff in the field was a major related challenge.

The Secretary-General noted that the range of responsibilities facing the United Nations extended to almost every area of human activity, and that agreement was emerging among the membership on its role and objectives. Far-reaching administrative reforms had already been implemented to make the Organization more efficient and effective.

With respect to preventive diplomacy, the Secretary-General said a network of early warning systems was being developed to respond to environmental threats, natural disasters, mass population movements, the threat of famine and other risks. However, a more systematic cooperative effort was needed to use the available information. Restructuring had encompassed all economic and social sectors in the development field. The measures taken were rooted in a basic concept of the functions best performed at Headquarters and those that should be carried out at the regional and field levels. He stressed the need to create new "linkages and synergies" between agencies and in the field and between policy-making and operational activities. In the next year, the reform process would be carried out in several duty stations, and decentralization would mean a more effective distribution of responsibilities and better coordination within the system.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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6 October 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted last night, establishes United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda (UNOMIR) for initial six months to assist in implementation of Arusha Peace Agreement; existing observer mission to be integrated into UNOMIR.

+ Rwanda, Thailand, Marshall Islands, Bahrain, Czech Republic, Singapore, Bhutan and Brunei Darussalam among speakers today in General Assembly's general debate.

+ Guatemala, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Kenya and Turkmenistan among speakers in yesterday's general debate.

+ Secretary-General tells Security Council that security is prerequisite for success of UNOSOM II's humanitarian and reconstruction mission; notes shift from relief to long-term rehabilitation of Somalia; intends to visit region in next week.

+ United States pays $533 million in assessed contributions to United Nations, reducing outstanding dues to $472 million; contributions outstanding from all Member States total $1.7 billion.

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The Security Council decided last night to establish the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda (UNAMIR) for an initial six months, to assist in the implementation of the Peace Agreement signed last August by the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) in Arusha, Tanzania. In unanimously adopting resolution 872 (1993), the Council authorized the Mission to monitor observance of the cease-fire; to monitor security towards the end of the transitional government's mandate; to contribute to the security of the city of Kigali; to monitor the repatriation of refugees; and to assist in the coordination of humanitarian activities.

The Council invited the Secretary-General to consider ways of reducing UNAMIR's maximum strength, particularly through phased deployment, without affecting its capacity to carry out its mandate. The Council asked him to

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report on UNAMIR's progress after the initial deployment and said it would review the need for further deployment on the basis of that report. It also approved the Secretary-General's proposal that the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) be integrated into UNAMIR. The new Mission's mandate will end after national elections and the establishment of a new government, scheduled to occur by October 1995, but no later than December 1995.

The resolution urged the parties to implement the Arusha Agreement in good faith and demanded that they take all appropriate steps to ensure the security and safety of the operation and its personnel.

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Major-General Juvénal Habyarimana, President of Rwanda, told the General Assembly today that the United Nations was the last hope for all peoples, and that its successes nurtured hope. He expressed satisfaction at recent developments in Cambodia, South Africa and the Middle East, and called on the international community to redouble its efforts to resolve the situations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia, Angola and Somalia. To improve the lot of mankind, the international community must also promote the creation of a new international economic order, so as to tackle global structural imbalances, he said. International cooperation demanded intense, transparent and precise action, shared responsibility, and the right for all sides to make mistakes.

Rwanda was emerging from three years of unjust and pointless war, he continued. The war had ended as a result of international solidarity as well as of the will of the two parties involved. Several States and two international organizations -- the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations -- had played a major role in the peace process, which had concluded with the signing of the Arusha Peace Agreement in August. The war had caused major humanitarian problems. People had been displaced, education had been disrupted and crops had been neglected, resulting in famine. National reconciliation was now a priority. He expressed thanks for the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda (UNAMIR), and said that the country's recovery would depend on the generosity of the international community.

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The Prime Minister of Thailand, Chuan Leekpai, told the General Assembly this morning that in order to construct a new regional order of peace, harmony and prosperity, the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) were intensifying efforts among themselves and with neighbours and friends from outside the region. ASEAN was in a singular position to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in Southeast Asia, he said, particularly in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building. Cooperation between the United Nations and a regional organization with a solid track record such as ASEAN could compensate for the weaknesses each organization might suffer by itself.

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The international settlement of the Cambodian problem, he said, meant that for the first time in recent memory the region was free of armed conflict. He congratulated the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) on organizing the massive repatriation of Cambodian refugees from Thailand and the elections that resulted in a democratic Government. Thailand had cooperated with the United Nations from the outset in the efforts to rehabilitate Cambodia, he said, and pledged its friendship and cooperation with the new Government as it embarked on the path of nation-building.

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Tom Kijiner, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Marshall Islands, told the General Assembly this morning that the problems facing the world today required fundamental changes in the thinking of nations and of all mankind. Superpower confrontation had been replaced by many intricate problems, and the United Nations must be carefully reevaluated to ensure its effectiveness in dealing with them. He expressed support for the creation of an office of inspector-general, and said his country would continue to closely examine proposals for the expansion of the membership of the Security Council. He also supported the creation of an office of high commissioner for human rights.

The Foreign Minister called attention to the special situation of island nations, and said that islanders had, throughout history, displayed a remarkable degree of innovation and adaptability. Despite the end of the arms race, the world still had to confront the problems of nuclear testing and the dismantling of nuclear weapons. He welcomed the nuclear testing moratorium, and said he was greatly distressed that it had been broken by one of the nuclear Powers. He appealed to the other nuclear Powers not to follow that party, and said the Marshall Islands would work for a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty. The problem might be addressed at its source by prohibiting the production of weapons-grade plutonium. The Marshall Islands was very pleased to have had been accepted as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) last week, and looked forward to contributing to its work, he added.

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Shaikh Mohamed Bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Bahrain's Minister for Foreign Affairs, told the General Assembly today that the current session had extraordinary significance because of the critical issues being considered. The world was undergoing a remarkable transformation with the end of the East-West confrontation. However, it had not become more stable because of such problems of violent nationalism, ethnic cleansing, and the gap between developed and developing countries. It was unfortunate that increased interdependence had coincided with increased political fragmentation, he said, and it was incumbent upon all to develop new strategies to deal with those problems for the sake of peace and security.

In building the post-cold war world, he continued, Bahrain advocated: agreement on new visions concerning the issues of peace and development; the

establishment of appropriate criteria for world stability through common security; respect for the boundaries between States, and the resolution of disputes by peaceful means agreed upon by the parties concerned; and support for the United Nations as the appropriate tool for the establishement of a new international order. He also stressed the importance of preventive diplomacy and the preventive deployment of United Nations forces to defuse tensions. The composition of the Security Council should be reviewed with a view to equitable geographic representation and a permanent seat for the Arab group. He went on to say that the recent Accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had given rise to hopes for peace in the Middle East and a just solution to the Palestine question. He also looked forward to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territories in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

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Josef Zieleniec, the Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic, said in the general debate today that though the division of Czechoslovakia was regrettable, great effort had been made to carry out the separation peacefully. Not a single window pane was broken in the process, he said, and the experience showed that good will and common sense could lead to peaceful settlement even of problems traditionally accompanied by violence and terror. Referring to Bosnia and Herzegovina, he described as odious the enforced coincidence of statehood with ethnicity. Ethnic and religious purity were concepts from another age, he said, irrelevant in the modern world.

Politically, the Czech Republic was constructing a democratic regime and its human rights record and robust press freedom had been recognized "even by very finicky non-partisan international organizations", he said. Economically, it had also chalked up successes. "We live within our means," he stated. His country did not seek to siphon off scarce development resources from countries in a worse situation and sought trade, not aid. Open markets would benefit both the developed and the developing, those that were settled and those in transition. For that reason, he said, the successful conclusion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Uruguay round would benefit everyone.

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Wong Kan Seng, Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs, told the General Assembly today that the composition of the Security Council was a compromise between the principle of the sovereign equality of States and the realities of power politics. All States were equal, but some had a disproportionate influence on international life. Only the great Powers could make a decisive difference when action was needed, but the great must seek the mandate of the many for action to command a general consensus. In considering whether to increase the number of permanent seats on the Council, it was necessary to decide what configuration of international power should be reflected in their distribution, and who belonged in "the new elite", he said.

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The United States had won the cold war, but its economic recovery had been slow and its competitiveness had been blunted, he continued. The Russian Federation had serious economic and political difficulties but was a great military power. Japan and Germany were economic powerhouses, but lacked a consensus on the use of military forces beyond their borders. For the Council to reflect the current international distribution of power, some States would have to be relegated from the elite. He proposed that the Assembly form a working group to formulate criteria for the Council's expansion. He suggested that the veto power be retained, but that two vetoes be required to block a resolution in an expanded Council, in order to minimise misuse. Permanent members should each pay at least 9 per cent of United Nations operating expenses and 11 per cent of peace-keeping costs. They should also be ready to place their military forces at the Organization's disposal and to "shed blood", if necessary, to uphold international order, he said.

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The Foreign Minister of Bhutan, Lyonpo Dawa Tsering, told the General Assembly today that despite the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action in 1990, in the past three years per capita incomes in the least developed countries had fallen. Those countries had begun to initiate bold and painful structural reforms, but budget constraints in donor nations and competing claims on aid resources had continued to slow down the flow of official development assistance to them. While expressing his country's gratitude to donors who had met and even exceeded targets for such assistance, he appealed to others to follow suit, so that reforms could be sustained.

He went on to say that the United Nations could not remain unchanged and still be able to fulfill the hopes and expectations of its 184 Members in a vastly changed world. Increasing cooperation among the Members after the end of the cold war had made it possible for the Organization to become more effective, but its long-term success would depend on how democratic it became in its functioning and to what extent it involved all its Members, large and small, in the decision-making process. The United Nations should become, he concluded, the centrepiece of a more just and equitable world order, speaking for the whole of humanity rather than just for a privileged few.

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The Foreign Minister of Brunei Darussalam, Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, called this afternoon for clear progress in strenthening linkages between the North and South, and the creation of conditions which promoted cooperation and growth. Speaking in the general debate, he said existing mechanisms needed to be improved to prevent economic disagreements from turning into open conflict. Each nation had a responsibility for promoting fair trading arrangements throughout the world.

The United Nations achieved its greatest successes, the Prince continued, when the special responsibilities of national Governments, non-governmental organizations and regional associations were recognized and agreed upon before the world body was asked to take action. When those responsibilities clashed,

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as in Somalia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Organization's effectiveness was hindered. The success of the humanitarian operations in those countries, and the fact that those conflicts had not spread beyond the regions, should not divert attention from the deep matters of principle involved. The United Nations Charter would be severely compromised, he warned, if the Organization became a party to any arrangement which forced a sovereign nation to submit to aggression. That would not only condone terrorism, he said; it would reward it.

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Arturo Fajardo Maldonado, Guatemala's Foreign Minister, told the General Assembly yesterday that the interruption and reintroduction of constitutional order in his country earlier this year had allowed the Guatemalan people to defend their rights and to consolidate their political stability purely within the context of constitutional processes. He said a "national peace plan" would seek to establish a dialogue among all Guatemalans, including those associated with the Unidad Revolucionaría Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG).

International support would be needed to facilitate the demobilization of the URNG, he continued. He called on the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) to strengthen their presence in Guatemala and to provide technical cooperation for protecting and defending human rights in the country. In Central America, he said, regional political advances had been stimulated by regular meetings of the region's Presidents. At the end of October, Guatemala would host such a summit, at which they would adopt the Protocol to the General Treaty on Economic Integration, an instrument which sought to consolidate peace by stimulating social development.

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Song Won Ho, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, said that a steadfast commitment to independence enabled each country to safeguard its national dignity and rights, as well as maintain and consolidate international relationships on a sound basis. His country's commitment to independence and principled position had enabled it to advance along the road of socialism. He went on to say his Government had consistently subordinated everything to the goal of national reunification. Differences in ideologies, ideals and political systems existed within the nation, but they could be overcome without much difficulty. He stressed that the inter-Korean dialogue had made epoch-making progress.

The time was right to dissolve the "United Nations Forces Command" in south Korea and to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, he continued. The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was another essential factor in building a durable peace and security. His Government remained committed to its consistent position of turning the peninsula into a nuclear-free, peaceful zone. It would not object to inspection of its own nuclear facilities, but only when impartiality was fully

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guaranteed, he said. Nuclear weapons deployed on the Korean peninsula and its surrounding regions should be dismantled. Without that solution, any talk about international nuclear non-proliferation and a worldwide nuclear disarmament was senseless.

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Diego Paredes, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, said in the general debate yesterday that although United Nations action in response to the Gulf crisis had reaffirmed the principles of the inadmissibility of the forcible acquisition of territories, problems were today increasing in the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union. Nationalistic and xenophobic tendencies were on the rise and could be seen even in the very heart of Europe. "Europe is dying in Sarajevo", he said.

Turning to economic issues, he said it was important to promote sustainable development, as called for in "Agenda 21" of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Sources for finance for sustainable development also had to be consolidated. He went on to say that Ecuador attached particular importance to its relations with its neighbours and was taking steps to enhance and improve those relationships. The maintenance of peace should be a paramount concern. He called on Peru to join Ecuador in reaffirming the principle of non-use of force in their mutual relations, with a view to achieving an honourable solution to the differences between the two countries.

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Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Kenya's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said in the General Assembly yesterday that the brutal war in Bosnia, the destruction of Somalia and the protracted civil war in Angola confirmed the futility of force as a means of solving disputes. He said the continued presence of United Nations peace-keeping personnel in Somalia was critical for peace and security and asked for the reinforcement of of United Nations patrols along their common border, to help Kenyan security personnel scale down the flow of armed gangs and refugees into his country. The very heavy influx of Somali refugees into Kenya had had a devastating effect on ecologically fragile parts of his country, due to excessive cutting of trees for building and firewood.

He asked the United Nations and the donor community to assist Kenya with programmes for the rehabilitation of the physical and social infrastructure, as well as the restoration of the ecosystem in the region. Kenya welcomed progress towards ensuring the effectiveness of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as an important instrument for funding incremental costs related to the implementation of Agenda 21, he said. However, Kenya was concerned that financial resources for the implementation of the programme had fallen short. He also underlined the need to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to enable it to participate effectively in implementing Agenda 21.

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Boris O. Shihmuradov, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan, said that success for his country, after its recent independence following seven long decades under Soviet control, required political and economic reforms. Turkmenistan had to wean itself from State-owned property and a foodstuffs-based economy. A multi-party system was also needed. Democratic reforms were necessary to avoid social upheavals and disruption of harmony in society. In solving military problems, his country took a neutral, non-interference stance. He said a new agreement with Iran had established a peaceful border between their two countries. Turkmenistan was also engaged in active dialogue with Afghanistan and had developed a regional railroad -- the first such in Afghanistan.

Although part of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Turkmenistan had roots in the Middle East. Thus, it was in a position to facilitate talks between the two regions, he continued. He said his country could become the seat for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) by setting up bilateral agreements which were the best means of cooperation. The European Community, with its multilateral agreements, could not be duplicated in the CIS, he said. However, cooperation would be based on consensus, as it was in the Community. He went on to say that the CIS needed a period of transition to achieve cooperative development.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali briefed the Security Council today on the situation in Somalia, and emphasized that security was a prerequisite for the success of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) in its mission of humanitarian relief and political reconstruction. He also emphasized the extent of the progress achieved so far, including the elimination of starvation, and noted that a shift was underway from relief to long-term rehabilitation, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General said progress had been made in achieving security throughout the country, except in southern Mogadishu. UNOSOM II had never achieved the military strength authorized by the Council, and was currently short some 8,000 or 9,000 troops. It also had a mandate to apprehend and punish those responsible for the attacks on United Nations peace-keepers on 5 June. He stressed that Somalia would never enjoy peace, security and reconstruction without the substantial disarmament of all the warlords. The Secretary-General later told correspondents that he would visit the region in the next week.

Addressing a press conference at Headquarters today, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, stressed that UNOSOM II had not veered from its original objectives and had not focused entirely on dealing with General Mohamed Farah Aidid and the Somali National

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Alliance (SNA). Reconciliation and reconstruction were its priorities, but the international media had highlighted the situation in southern Mogadishu. Mr. Annan said he would leave for Somalia tomorrow to assess the situation on the ground and to show solidarity with United Nations personnel in the country.

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The United Nations yesterday received payments from the United States for assessed contributions totalling some $533 million, of which $233 million was for the regular budget and $300 million for peace-keeping operations. The payments reduced the United States' outstanding dues to some $472 million, comprising $284 million for the regular budget and $188 million for peace-keeping.

To date, contributions outstanding from all Member States total some $1.7 billion, comprising $536 million for the regular budget and $1.2 billion for peace-keeping operations.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

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7 October 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nigeria, Libya, Mongolia, Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, Suriname and Tanzania among speakers today in General Assembly's general debate.

+ Senegal, Viet Nam, Gambia and Namibia among speakers in yesterday's general debate.

+ Secretary-General, in meeting with Foreign Minister of Guatemala, says he is ready to assist in resumption of peace talks between Guatemalan Government and URNG.

+ Non-Aggression Pact unanimously adopted by member States of Economic Community of Central African States meeting in Libreville, Gabon; Pact to come into force when ratified by seven of its 11 members.

+ United Nations Special Representative for Georgia begins discussions in Geneva with Abkhaz representatives; plans to begin talks soon with Georgian Government and with Russian representatives; warns that 200,000 refugees in Georgia face total deprivation and worsening cold.

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Alija Izetbegovic, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, told the General Assembly today that an experiment in "political vivisection" was being performed on his country, and that the State and its people were dying. The London Conference had been the first stage of the experiment, followed by the Vance-Owen plan, which no one had tried to implement. Now, the Bosnian people were being asked to choose between a just defensive war and an unjust peace. A peace plan that legitimized genocide and promoted ethnic partition would sow the seeds of new aggression; a plan that did not provide for a viable Bosnian State or measures for real implementation would not lead to peace, he warned.

The Bosnian Parliament's provisional acceptance of the plan depended on certain adjustments, he stated. The Bosnian Republic in the proposed Union of the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina must be geographically, economically,

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politically and defensively viable; aggressor forces must surrender control of territories where they had slaughtered and expelled civilians; and the agreement must contain guarantees for implementation by the States and organizations which would enforce the peace. If the international community would not implement the plan, the Bosnian people must be allowed to arm and defend themselves. The Security Council could not escape its responsibilities when one party was being pressured with the threat of genocide, he stressed.

The President called attention to the impending humanitarian tragedy in his country, and went on to say that United Nations involvement there had been the antithesis of clarity of objective and firmness of resolve. The Organization's half-heartedness and prideful insistence that it was getting the job done might go down in history as the main reasons for the country's destruction. The United Nations must follow through on its intervention or rescind that intervention; it could not continue with its present policy, which made it an accomplice in the destruction of the Bosnian people, he said.

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Chief Ernest Shonekan, Head of State of Nigeria and Commander-in-Chief of its Armed Forces, told the General Assembly this afternoon that Nigerians understood and appreciated the concern shown by the international community over recent political events in their country, given that democratization had become a major component of the emerging new world order. He assured the Assembly that they were working very hard to find a just and generally acceptable solution to the problem. Only yesterday, he said, he had inaugurated a high-powered Commission of Eminent Persons to look into the circumstances that lead to the annulment of the 12 June presidential election and to report back within 60 days.

He congratulated South African leaders, both black and white, on the statesmanlike way they had conducted the negotiations that led to the establishment of the Transitional Executive Council. He said Nigeria would respond immediately to Nelson Mandela's call for economic cooperation with South Africa. While urging Member States to support the Organization's ever-increasing peace-keeping efforts, he stressed that the United Nations must direct its operations in a manner that did not jeopardize its integrity or expose the peace-keepers to avoidable danger. He said the national trauma occasioned by the loss of lives while on United Nations peace-keeping missions gave rise to anxieties and doubts, but Nigeria would continue to participate in those operations. It was in that spirit of service, he stated, that his country was seeking election to the Security Council this year, and he asked the Members to support its candidature.

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Omar Mustafa Al-Muntasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International of the Libyan Arab Jamahariya, this morning called on the General Assembly to recognise his country's efforts to resolve the dispute involving the two suspects in the Pan American and UTA bombing incidents, and to urge the Security Council to immediately lift its

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sanctions against Libya. France, Britain and the United States had pressured the Council into dealing with the issue under Chapter VII of the Charter, which did not apply in this case, he said, given that Libya had neither threatened nor jeopardized international peace and security. His Government had accepted the Secretary-General's reply to its recent communication on the matter and all that remained now was to convince the suspects to submit themselves to the Scottish judiciary. Libya was urging them to do so, he said.

He said his country had supported the call for the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones, including the proposal by Egypt calling for the Middle East to be made an area free of weapons of mass destruction. Libya had asked the United Nations to take the necessary measures to destroy nuclear, bacteriological, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction, such as ballistic missiles, and to prohibit and criminalise the development, possession and use of all such weapons.

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Tserenpiliin Gombosuren, Mongolia's Minister for External Relations, told the General Assembly today that the new democracies were making progress despite the formidable difficulties of transition, and he called attention to recent events in the Russian Federation. He expressed confidence that the democratic forces led by President Boris Yeltsin would succeed in their endeavours. Mongolia was entering its fourth year of democratic reforms but faced special difficulties as an under-developed, landlocked country highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Mongolia also had to deal with spiritual renewal as well, as its people had been forced to abandon centuries-old traditions and their cultural heritage during the years of the socialist experiment.

It was time to address the issue of economic disparities between North and South and to conclude the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks, he continued. Mongolia welcomed the meeting of the Chairmen of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of Seven industrialized countries in Tokyo last July, which represented a first step towards relaunching the North-South Dialogue. He went on to say that grants and soft loans from donor governments had helped to alleviate Mongolia's difficulties and provided a basis for future development. Mongolia wanted to attract private-sector investment and to be actively involved in regional economic cooperation, and hoped to become a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization.

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The Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Roberto R. Romulo, this morning hailed the "amazing transformation" that had radically altered the world's political landscape in the past year. It was exemplified, he told the General Assembly, by developments in two of the major preoccupations that had exercised the Assembly for decades, the system of apartheid in South

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Africa and the problem of Palestine. He also welcomed the "triumph" of the Cambodian people, together with the United Nations and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), in establishing a democratic Government.

The old scourges that still confronted mankind -- mass poverty, external debt, environmental damage and illicit drugs -- would be more effectively addressed, he said, if people were placed at the centre of development and international cooperation. Focusing on the situation of women, he said that in situations of conflict, women and children were the most tragic victims because of their inherent vulnerability. Similarly, he continued, in situations of extreme poverty, women -- particularly migrant workers -- were the most vulnerable to abuse. He called on the Assembly to pay attention to the condition of women, particularly of female migrant workers, and asked Governments to stop treating migrant workers as commodities, subject to the law of supply and demand.

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Ednan Karabayev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, told the General Assembly today his country was trying to find its place in a new world. In doing so, it believed in pluralism, the establishment of a market economy, a policy of self-reliance aimed at protecting the vulnerable, providing legal safeguards for all citizens and for the State itself, religious tolerance, and the priority of human rights and the individual's right to happiness. However, the country lacked energy resources and was experiencing certain difficulties in the social and economic sphere. There was a shortage of medicines and many people did not have a balanced diet. Young people from rural areas often lacked skills which would allow them to contribute to the economy. Kyrgyzstan needed investment, he said, citing the example of the Marshall Plan.

The Foreign Minister stressed the importance of religous tolerance, and said a universal convention on freedom of religion could make a contribution to international peace and security. He also spoke of the need to establish a system of collective security in Asia, and expressed support for proposals in that regard made by previous speakers in the general debate. However, he said that such a system could not be achieved quickly, and suggested that the Secretary-General might conduct a study of the issue.

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Subhas Ch. Mungra, the Foreign Minister of Suriname, said in the general debate today that it was no easy task to achieve economic recovery and further development while safeguarding political stability. The process could entail increased poverty and serious social disruption, he warned. The divergence between Suriname's views on the proper way to implement the adjustment programme and the views of donors had created great pressure on policy. The failure of adjustment programmes in many countries undoubtedly related to a perception which overlooked the reality facing developing countries at present, and which ignored the real aspirations of humankind.

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He said that in 1992 his country and The Netherlands had signed a Framework Treaty providing for substantial support for development in Suriname. The cooperation arising from that agreement had helped consolidate the restored democracy in his country, strengthening its constitutionality, aiding the protection of human rights and establishing and maintaining peace after the armed struggle in the interior ended. However, he added, questions had arisen as to The Netherlands' support for the Suriname's economic recovery, and thus about its motives for that cooperation.

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Joseph Rwegasira, Tanzania's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, told the General Assembly today that the credibility and moral authority of the United Nations had been severely damaged by its inability to respond to the grave challenge posed by Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Had the Organization heeded the call for an adequate presence in Angola, it was unlikely that Mr. Savimbi would have embarked on his "adventure", which was now tearing the country apart. He went on to say that the failure of the United Nations to offer any hope to the Bosnian Muslims was one of the greatest tragedies of our time. The arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina should be lifted to enable its people to defend themselves.

The Foreign Minister welcomed the initiative taken by some donor countries to tackle the debt crisis by writing off some of the debts of the least developed countries. Apart from debt relief measures, Africa needed a fresh infusion of finance to accelerate economic growth. He also welcomed Japan's iniatiative to organize, in collaboration with the United Nations and the Global Coalition for Africa, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. He expressed the hope that the Conference would yield concrete recommendations on measures to assist Africa and would remind the international community of the need to help the continent.

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Moustapha Niasse, Senegal's Minister for Foreign Affairs, told the General Assembly yesterday that the United Nations should be restructured to meet the challenges of a changed world. The world economy had lost its balance in a manner which increasingly jeopardized international peace. The salvation of mankind lay in solidarity, friendship and cooperation among peoples. It was fortunate that France, among other industrialized countries, had reaffirmed the importance of addressing the needs of the developing countries in order to ensure international peace and security, he said.

The Foreign Minister stressed that Senegal would remain committed to the strengthening of international peace and security, which could only be guaranteed if all nations complied with the rule of law in their relations with other States. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the people were the victims of genocide. In Angola, the Bicesse Accords seemed to have collapsed, with the positions of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) regarding last year's elections, plunging the nation into renewed conflict.

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He commended the United Nations operation in Somalia, although much remained to be done there to restore a viable State.

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Phan Van Khai, First Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam, told the General Assembly yesterday that his country, which had lived through protracted, devastating wars, was undertaking a process of renewal. Located in the most dynamic region of development in the world, it had both opportunities and challenges stemming from its specific historical circumstances, natural conditions and position in the world. It had to overcome poverty and underdevelopment and join the mainstream of progress in the region. The only way to do so was to tap all domestic resources and to expand international cooperation. The process of renewal focused on the economic field with a view to developing a market economy. He thanked the United Nations system and the many Governments and non-governmental organizations which had provided development and humanitarian assistance to his country.

Viet Nam was ready to normalize relations with the United States on the basis of equality, mutual respect and without any preconditions, he continued. That would meet the aspirations and interests of both countries and would serve peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and around the world. Viet Nam was deeply sympathetic to the sentiments of American families with loved ones missing in the war, and had cooperated, was cooperating and would countinue to cooperate with the American Government and people regarding those missing in action. It was a purely humanitarian issue, he stressed.

* * *

Omar Sey, Minister for External Affairs of the Gambia, told the General Assembly yesterday that the issue of human rights needed to be fully addressed in all its composite parts. Political and civil rights went hand in hand with economic, social and cultural rights. The problems of poverty, hunger and illiteracy, which had characterized developing countries, constituted a serious threat to the stability and respect of political rights in those countries. He supported the creation of a high commissioner for human rights. Among the difficulties facing developing countries was the problem of external debt, which constituted a major obstacle to development. In sub-Saharan Africa the debt stock had increased to $185 billion, the equivalent of 110 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). One third of Africa's total export earnings went to developed countries to service debts. A concerted and innovative international effort was needed to find a permanent solution to the problem.

While Africa's indebtedness had continued, agricultural and industrial production had declined, he said. The problem was aggravated by serious inflation, which had contributed to a steep decline in domestic savings and investment. Increased direct foreign investment was crucial for long-term improvement of Africa's economic situation, as was the removal of unfair trade practices. He expressed the hope that an early conclusion of the Uruguay

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Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks would address the thorny issue of market access, which was of major concern to developing countries.

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Theo-Ben Gurirab, Namibia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, said yesterday that if the Security Council was to be a credible organ of the United Nations, it must fulfil the expectations of a changing and demanding world. The membership of the Security Council should be increased through the addition of more permanent and non-permanent members on an equitable geographical basis. Africa needed an effective presence on the Council, as did Asia and Latin America. The outmoded and undemocratic veto power should be abolished. There was also a compelling need to restructure the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. "Humanity is yearning for a peaceful, just and prosperous world," he said. Accordingly, Namibia envisaged a meaningful partnership between the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in conflict resolution and humanitarian relief operations in Africa.

The Foreign Minister called on the people of South Africa, with the assistance of the international community, to put an immediate end to the ever-escalating violence. He supported Nelson Mandela's call for the lifting of economic sanctions against South Africa, and the restoration of full diplomatic relations with South Africa following the installation of an elected government of national unity. The matter of Walvis Bay and the offshore islands was finally being resolved, he said. On 28 February 1994, their transfer and reintegration would take place, marking completion of the decolonization of Namibia and its unification as a nation.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday with the Foreign Minister of Guatemala, Arturo Fajardo Maldonado, who presented his Government's plan for the establishment of a national dialogue, measures to address pressing social needs, and a proposed revised framework for peace negotiations with the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG).

The Foreign Minister requested the Secretary-General's assistance in promoting a meeting with the URNG, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General expressed his continued willingness to help the parties resume the peace talks as soon as possible.

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A Non-Aggression Pact among the 11 member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) has been unanimously adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa being held in Libreville, Gabon. The Pact will come into force when ratified by seven of the members.

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Included in the Pact is a commitment by the Committee's members (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Zaire) not to resort to the threat or use of force in inter-state relations, and to respect the territorial integrity and independence of other member States in accordance with the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Each member State also pledges not to commit, encourage or support acts of hostility or aggression against the territorial integrity and independence of other member States and to prevent such acts from being carried out by foreigners on their territory. Should differences occur among member States, the Pact provides for recourse to the relevant mechanisms of ECCAS, the OAU and the United Nations, as appropriate.

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The United Nations Special Representative for Georgia, Ambassador Edward Brunner, said in Geneva today that tensions were too high at the moment to convene a peace conference on the situation in the Abkhaz region. Ambassador Brunner told journalists in Geneva that he began discussions with the Abkhaz representatives yesterday. He said he hoped to begin talks in the near future with the Georgian Government and to bring in Russian representatives as well. The Special Representative said he recognized that Russia had a legitimate interest in stability in the Caucasus region, and that it would be difficult to find a durable solution without active Russian participation.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Brunner said the humanitarian situation was of great concern both in the Abkhaz region and elsewhere in Georgia, with over 200,000 refugees enduring complete deprivation. He said it was beginning to become very cold, and a large number of refugees were stranded high up in inaccessible mountainous regions.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1495
8 October 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly decides to lift economic sanctions against South Africa; oil embargo to end when Transitional Executive Council becomes operational.

+ Chad, Cameroon, Lesotho and Moldova among speakers today in General Assembly's general debate.

+ Yemen, Jamaica, Iraq, Mauritania, Uganda and Sudan among speakers in yesterday's general debate.

+ Secretary-General welcomes United States President's address on Somalia yesterday; says he agrees his analysis of situation; plans to visit Somalia and Addis Ababa next week to promote political reconciliation.

+ WFP to provide food aid to 140,000 poor Palestinians in Gaza; $3.5 million project described as first concrete assistance to Palestinians by United Nations since recent signing of Israeli/PLO peace agreement.

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The General Assembly this morning adopted by consensus a resolution lifting the economic sanctions it first imposed against South Africa in 1962. The Assembly ended all prohibitions and restrictions on economic relations with South Africa and its nationals, including in the areas of trade, investment, finance, travel and transportation. By this resolution, it also decided that the embargo on the supply of petroleum and petroleum products to South Africa, and investment in the petroleum industry there, would be lifted when the country's recently legislated Transitional Executive Council becomes operational.

The Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), said that by adopting the resolution the Assembly would send a very strong signal to the South African people that the international community and the United Nations were ready to assist them in the economic reconstruction of

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their country, and to ensure that the new South Africa would begin its existence unhampered by the constraints imposed on the old South Africa.

The United Nations arms embargo against South Africa was imposed by the Security Council and is not affected by the General Assembly resolution. In December 1991, in response to moves by the South African Government to dismantle apartheid, the Assembly ended its prohibition against academic, scientific, cultural and sports contacts with the country. Two weeks ago, the President of the African National Congress of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, in an address delivered in the Assembly hall, called for the lifting of economic sanctions.

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Fidel Moungar, the Prime Minister of Chad, told the General Assembly this morning that his country had set out on the road to democracy in 1990 and earlier this year a National Conference had set up a framework for stable democratic institutions. He said the transition Government was making great efforts to implement the objectives of the National Conference. The restructuring of the national army would open up the way to better control of public expenditures, but substantial resources were required for the army's reconversion and reintegration into civilian life. He thanked France for the assistance it had been providing in that regard for the last three years, and appealed to the international community for further assistance.

The Government of Chad was taking steps to strengthen human rights, especially with regard to the freedom of the press and the establishment of political parties, he said. However, cases of human rights abuses still arose. Democracy, poverty and insecurity were not good neighbours, he went on to say. In addition to a lack of rainfall and the threat of locusts, Chad was suffering from severe economic difficulties which had caused social conditions to deteriorate. The country sought to implement a consistent programme of macro-economic adjustment and reform by improving public finances, relaunching productive activities, rationalizing management and advancing the private sector. It hoped for understanding and greater support from the international community, he said.

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Speaking in the general debate today, the Foreign Minister of Cameroon, Ferdinand Léopold Oyono, warned that the remarkable improvements in the situation in the Middle East and in South Africa could not mask the danger to international peace and security posed by the persistence of armed conflict, the emergence of nationalism and religious intolerance, poverty and under-development. He called for a restoration of peace and the democratic process in Angola, and expressed the hope that Liberia, Somalia and Mozambique would find the stability to reconstruct their countries. In Western Sahara, he added, there was still a chance that the obstacles to holding a referendum on its future status would be overcome by the negotiations currently underway.

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Meeting the challenge of peace did not only mean silencing weapons, he said. His Government asked that, within the framework of the settlement of regional conflicts, the resources be mobilised to meet humanitarian needs and the imperatives of reconstruction of the African countries that had been ravaged by armed conflict. The will of the Heads of State of Africa to assume greater responsibility for handling conflicts in their region would thereby be strengthened, he said, and added that the mechanism established towards that end at the 29th summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) should be supported by the international community. He pointed out that it was part of the implementation of the "Agenda for Peace" adopted by the Security Council and was consonant with the Non-Aggression Pact recently signed by the 11 members of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

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Nicolae Anton Tâu, Moldova's Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated in the general debate today that international organizations such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Community had a crucial role in the strengthening of international peace and security, but that the United Nations role remained decisive. However, recent regional conflicts, particularly in the former Yugoslavia, indicated a need to improve the international machinery dealing with peace and security issues. The Security Council's membership should be increased, while maintaining its efficiency, he said.

Moldova's principled position on human rights had been challenged by "the separatist forces in Transdniestria, inspired and supported from abroad", he continued. Allegations by some in the Russian Federation that the conflict started by those forces was an inter-ethnic one were not true; it was a political conflict aimed at rebuilding a new imperial structure. The presence of foreign military forces in Moldova was the main source of insecurity and instability in the country, he said. Therefore, the Russian Federation should not be entrusted with a mandate for peace-keeping operations in the conflict zones of the former Soviet Union. He proposed that an additional item be included on the agenda of the General Assembly on the question of the complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territory of Moldova.

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The Foreign Minister of Lesotho, Molapo Qhobela, told the General Assembly today that the United Nations had to recognise its need for increased resources and more balanced burden-sharing among Member States. Like a world parliament, the Organization must also reflect in its structures the same democratic values that it advocated, he said. The need for democratization extended in particular to the Security Council. Africa accounted for almost one third of the United Nations Membership and there should be positive consideration of its interest in being allotted at least two permanent seats in the Council and an increased number of non-permanent seats.

Mr. Qhobela said his Government regarded the overwhelming popular mandate it received in the general elections this year as a golden opportunity to

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address the urgent national issues of poverty, ignorance and disease. It appealed to the donor community to lend a helping with those efforts. The situation in South Africa was always a cause of concern for Lesotho, he continued, as it was his country's only immediate neighbour. He supported the lifting of economic sanctions against South Africa, but also urged the United Nations to upgrade its monitoring team there. He said he hoped that the lessons of Lesotho's peaceful transition to democracy would not be lost on the citizens of South Africa as they gained their first opportunity to elect a government of their choice.

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Mohamed Salem Basendwah, Foreign Minister of Yemen, said in the General Assembly yesterday that in 1990 his country had regained its unity and this was the first time Yemen had addressed the United Nations as one nation. In April 1993 Yemen had had free parliamentary elections, monitored by Western and Arab observers. His country was proud, because the unification and the elections were events that had been impossible to imagine four years ago.

Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, his country had suffered the terrible consequences, he continued. More than 2 million citizens had returned, yet Yemen had received no foreign assistance to deal with them. His Government was against the acquisition of territory by force and, as an Arab country, it was concerned by those events and breaches in Arab solidarity. He urged Iraq to cooperate with international provisions. Its most recent moves indicated it was prepared to do that, which warranted a removal of sanctions. The Iraqi people, he said, had suffered enough. Kuwait should have a guarantee that the events leading to the invasion would not be repeated, but it should also understand that its sovereignty must be based on equitable relations between itself and Iraq.

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Paul D. Robertson, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, said yesterday in the general debate that unsupervised economic globalization, coupled with escalating political fragmentation, could ignite fierce conflict between economic blocs and social groups worldwide. The present dilemma was how to capitalize collectively on the globalization, while avoiding fragmentation due to the resurgence of religious intolerance, ethnicity and chauvinistic nationalism. A shared economic development consensus could provide the basis for more equitable participation for the less developed countries.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) had put in place mechanisms to enhance regional trading, he said. At the same time, the Community was faced with the herculean task of avoiding or minimizing the short- to medium-run adverse impacts which were likely to befall its members when the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) took effect. The gains achieved under existing agreements must not be eroded, he said. Meanwhile, conditionality applied to loans provided by international financial institutions must be made more appropriate to developing economies, he stressed, and adjustment must take

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place over an extended period, must minimize social distress and must be growth-oriented.

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Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, the Foreign Minister of Iraq, told the General Assembly yesterday that his country had fulfilled its obligations under resolution 687, which relates to its weapons of mass destruction. He called upon the Security Council to lift the "unjust blockade" imposed against Iraq three years ago and to lift all restrictions which were no longer justified. Within the framework of its serious and continuous attempts to reveal the truth, his country had sought to find solutions to the outstanding issues through a responsible dialogue based on justice and fairness and consistent with international law and the Charter.

He went on to say that the Organization was in need, more than ever before, of cooperation among its Member States to save it from attempts to turn it into a tool to serve the selfish interests of certain dominant Powers, particularly the United States. He said it was 12 years since the Security Council adopted its resolution 487 (1981) on the military aggression carried out by Israel against the Iraqi nuclear reactor, and the Council had failed to do anything to ensure its implementation. The United Nations, he continued, was being forced to engage in a military operation in Somalia under the pretext of providing humanitarian assistance, yet it was incapable of taking any appropriate action to alleviate the bitter human suffering in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the other parts of former Yugoslavia.

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Mohamed Abderahmane Ould Moine, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mauritania, said in the general debate yesterday that his country, currently presiding over the session of the League of Arab States, reaffirmed that Arabs had never been warlike. Arabs and Palestinians had shown that peace could be attained in spite of their sufferings in the Middle East conflict. Peace was the foundation of the Arab civilization; it was a way of life for those whose salutations meant peace and whose prayers ended with peace. He said Mauritania rejected violation of the unity and integrity of Kuwait, but his country also rejected prohibitions against Iraq. He appealed for relief of the sufferings of women and children in Iraq.

Continuing, he said in the Arab Maghreb, in spite of efforts to lay a foundation of peace and prosperity, two important problems had emerged at a recent summit in Nouakchott. Those continued to preoccupy the leaders and the peoples. First was the question of Western Sahara. The United Nations had continued to make efforts to resolve that situation, he said, and Mauritania would continue to work towards a just and lasting solution. Such a resolution would be a factor of stability in the Maghreb region. Secondly, regarding the blockade against Libya, Mauritania hoped the Security Council resolution would be reviewed.

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Paul K. Ssemogerere, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda, speaking in the general debate yesterday, urged the international community to find the will to face political, economic, ecological and social challenges that stood in the way of the emancipation of the developing countries. Turning to the issue of conflict resolution, he stressed the importance of actually having the capacity to enforce solutions where agreements existed. He referred to a number of agreements brokered between the parties by regional organizations or by the United Nations that had then been deliberately scuttled, for instance in Yugoslavia, Somalia, Liberia and Angola.

There was an intrinsic relationship between the disarmament process and development, he continued. Unfortunately, at the international level, the "peace dividend" was yet to be channelled towards assistance to developing countries. At the national level, Uganda was scaling down its army to a level that the economy could sustain, and still met legitimate defence needs. That decision should release resources for development. He expressed appreciation to those countries and organizations which had agreed to assist in the resettlement and integration of demobilized soldiers.

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Hussein Suliman Abu Salih, the Foreign Minister of Sudan, said in the general debate yesterday that if developing countries were allowed equitable participation in the resolutions taken by the United Nations, their contribution could be more effective, especially in regional and international peace and security. "Preventive diplomacy and the subsequent use of political and military force cannot be applied only against less privileged countries and vulnerable peoples", he stated. A new formula within the framework of the current international arrangement would guarantee the rights of all and salvage the world from the hegemony by the stronger over the less privileged.

He outlined his Government's priorities designed to reach a just and lasting peace in southern Sudan, including its readiness to talk peace with the rebels without preconditions. His Government had put forward a comprehensive peace framework based on remedying the lingering causes of the conflict, such as adoption of a federal system of government to meet the aspirations of different regions for a genuine sharing of power, and the exemption of the South from the application of Sharia laws. He said the Government had also accepted a quadrilateral peace initiative put forward by the Heads of State of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and had accepted the offer by former United States President Jimmy Carter to mediate between the Government and the rebel factions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed United States President Bill Clinton's address on Somalia yesterday, saying that the President's analysis of the situation there, and of the role of the United Nations and the United States, was fully consistent with his. According to a United Nations spokesman, the Secretary-General was grateful to the President

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for having highlighted the Organization's many achievements in Somalia, and for having corrected many of the misperceptions which had surfaced in recent weeks.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali felt President Clinton had rightly emphasized that the ultimate responsibility for finding a solution to the crisis in the country lay with the Somali people, the spokesman said. The international community had taken action to fill a grave vacuum, out of humanitarian concern. The President had also correctly recalled that the United Nations mandate in Somalia, given by the Security Council, included the delivery of humanitarian assistance, promoting political reconciliation and disarming those elements responsible for the tragedy which had occurred, and which was still unfolding in part of Mogadishu. The sensational events of the last few days had diverted attention from the fact that in most of Somalia today virtually no one was starving, district councils were being formed, and the nation was "rising from the embers".

The Secretary-General would visit Somalia and Addis Ababa next week to resume his efforts to promote political reconciliation, the spokesman continued. As before, he would be relying heavily on the assistance of the countries of the area, as well as on regional organizations. The Secretary-General was happy to be able to count on the continued support of the United States Government in that effort.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) announced yesterday that it would be providing food aid to 140,000 of the poorest Palestinians in Gaza. The $3.5 million project is the first concrete development support by the United Nations for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories since the recent signing of a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Catherine Bertini, WFP Executive Director, said such aid was critical during the current transition period, and that by purchasing the supplies from local farmers, WFP would be helping stimulate the local economy.

According to WFP, many people living in the Gaza Strip could no longer afford to buy their basic daily food because the economy in the area had virtually collapsed in the aftermath of the Gulf War, and with the tightening of security restrictions by Israel. Recent surveys had found that half the pregnant Palestinian women there were suffering from malnutrition and doctors had reported a marked increase in the number of children diagnosed with malnutrition-related diseases.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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11 October 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Papua New Guinea, Armenia, Fiji, Botswana, Dominican Republic, Afghanistan, Zaire, Bahamas and Haiti among speakers in the general debate today.

+ Comoros, Oman, Costa Rica, Antigua and Barbuda, and Central African Republic among speakers in general debate on Friday.

+ Under-Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Special Representative Jonathan Howe attend inauguration of Somalia's second Regional Council in Bakool; UNOSOM II continues efforts to establish Councils throughout country.

+ Secretary-General appoints Vladimir Petrovsky as Secretary-General of, and Personal Representative to, Conference on Disarmament, on iterim basis; Abdelkader Bensmail to be Deputy Secretary-General; both appointments effective 5 December.

+ Secretary-General says mandate of United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia has been invalidated by fighting in Abhkazia, but proposes to keep observers in Sukhumi; WHO begins emergency airlift of food to thousands displaced by fighting.

+ United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa condemns raid by South African Defence Force in Umtata, Transkei, last Thursday which resulted in deaths of several young people.

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John Kaputin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea, told the General Assembly today that the proposed United Nations initiative on opportunity and development, which was on the agenda for the current session, was important to his country as opportunity and participation were among the national goals and principles in its Constitution. It was also important to other developing countries where increasing opportunity for citizens was an official aim, especially to countries whose economies were in transition. Papua New Guinea had recently been enjoying an unprecedented rate of economic

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growth and it was necessary to address the question of distribution so that people could benefit by taking part in that growth.

Increasing opportunity and participation was a universal goal, he continued. It was vital to address the issue comprehensively and systematically because of several features of the current international situation: the difficult, and often worsening, circumstances of many developing countries; the problems of economies in transition; and the tendency among economic policy-makers to reduce the economic role of the State and to leave questions of access and distribution to the market. He proposed the establishment of a small panel of distinguished and expert persons, broadly representative of the international community, to increase opportunity and participation, with particular reference to developing countries. It should produce recommendations for practical action rather than an academic study. Above all, it should examine the best way to link opportunity, via effective access, to participation, he said.

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Vahan Papazian, the Foreign Minister of Armenia, this morning told the General Assembly that now more than ever it was encumbent upon the United Nations to examine its policy of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of Member States and to define more stringently the impact of a conflict on other nations' peace and security. He supported the idea that the "near-moribund" Trusteeship Council be transformed into a modern "clearinghouse for self-determination". Under the system being discussed in academic circles, a "trust territory" would be part of a Member State voluntarily placed into trusteeship by the Government of that State, with the aim of resolving a claim of self-determination under United Nations supervision without prejudicing the territory's final status.

The conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, he continued, had cost more than 10,000 lives and uprooted almost a million people in the past five years. Armenia's position on the conflict had been clear and consistent from the first day -- it was between the people of the region, who were striving for self-determination, and the Azerbaijani Government, which was refusing to address their concerns about their rights and security. Recent developments were promising, he said, with direct talks taking place between the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azerbaijani authorities, mediated by the Russian Federation. The cease-fire brought about in that forum had held for over a month now, an achievement unprecedented in the past five years, he said.

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Ratu Manasa Seniloli, Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, today told the General Assembly that his country and the other members of the South Pacific Forum was concerned about the issue of nuclear testing. The Forum welcomed last month the commitment by France, the United Kingdom and the United States to the early negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty. He noted a lack of effective international rules for nuclear liability, and said members of the Forum attached great importance to

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the question of an enhanced international regime to cover possible transboundary damage arising from "peaceful nuclear activity". Members had agreed to participate on the ongoing deliberations of the Standing Committee on Nuclear Liability convened by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and to support the establishment of a comprehensive international legal regime dealing with liability for nuclear damage.

He went on to say that a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks was vital to economic growth and prosperity. Developing countries lost an estimated $100 billion in export revenues each year as a result of market barriers in industrialized countries -- about twice the official development assistance provided by those countries, he noted.

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The Foreign Minister of Botswana, Gaositwe K.T. Chiepe, said in the general debate this morning that the United Nations was reported to be spending roughly three times more on peace-keeping and peacemaking than on development assistance. Problems of development, she stressed, constituted the underlying cause of world conflicts. For the United Nations to be effective in the maintenance of international peace more energy and resources had to be expended on development activities. She said that for an effective process of development to get underway in Africa, the international community needed to establish a more open trading system and to give access to and adequate compensation for commodities produced in the continent.

She said the decision made by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on 29 September calling for the lifting of economic sanctions against South Africa was a momentous move. It had been taken in the ardent belief and hope that "we are truly approaching an historic watershed in the blood-stained history of Southern Africa - the end at last of the long nightmare of apartheid". However, she reiterated, freedom had not yet arrived, given the terrible violence ravaging the townships and the boycott of negotiations by some parties. She said the people of South Africa would need "our determined companionship" as they walked the last, and possibly most difficult, mile in their journey to the new South Africa.

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Juan Arístides Taveras Guzman, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, told the General Assembly today that in his part of America there was a shift towards settling disputes by negotiation, notably in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The return to democracy in Guatemala augured well for the process of institutionalizing peace and prosperity in the region, he said. Meanwhile, efforts were being made to reestablish constitutional order in Haiti through negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS). He appealed to the international community to help stabilize the democratic regime in that country and to aid its economic development. Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval had recently visited the Dominican Republic with a view to normalizing

relations between the two countries, and an agreement providing for real reciprocal cooperation had been concluded, he noted.

The Dominican Republic believed in the univerality of human rights, he continued. Neither geographic, economic, social, religious nor cultural differences could be used as a pretext for human rights abuses. He expressed concern about the return to extreme nationalism in certain parts of the world, and the destruction caused by racial and cultural hatred, notably in the former Yugoslavia. The Dominican Republic hoped for a swift solution to the situation there, and supported relevant Security Council measures, particularly the establishment of an international criminal court to judge crimes against humanity.

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Afghanistan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hedayat Amin Arsala, told the General Assembly today that the Afghan people felt that the changes that had taken place in the world were partly the result of the enormous sacfrifices they had made during the 14 years of struggle against Soviet occupation and communist rule. That gave them a special stake in ensuring that the choices made by the international community were the right ones and that they would share fully in the resulting benefits. He outlined the scope of destruction in Afghanistan and highlighted a few areas in which international assistance was particularly needed, including the struggle against drug cultivation and trafficking and the clearing of mines, which were currently killing an average of 300 people a month.

Afghanistan was distressed by the recent upheaval in Tajikstan, he said. It had made every effort to ensure that tensions along the Tajik-Afghan border were reduced, and high-level visits between the two countries had resulted in mutual understanding on important issues. He welcomed the decision by the Tajik authorities to solve their internal political problems through negotiations, so that the Tajik refugees in Afghanistan could return home with confidence. To that end, he said, his country was planning to reach a trilateral agreement with Tajikistan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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Mpinga Kasenda, the Foreign Minister of Zaire, said in the general debate this afternoon that in an atmosphere of political crisis, the protection of human rights became very difficult and subject to suspicion. The establishment of the State's authority was often identified with constraint and, at worst, with arbitrary action, although a country could not possibly become involved in development without order and collective discipline. The process of democratization was irreversible in Zaire, he stated, and no one was thinking of re-establishing the old order. Everyone aspired to change and to the establishment of law. The question at present was how to carry out that change in a peaceful manner.

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For now, he continued, Zaire was asking the international community - particularly those countries which believed they had a mandate to administer the country -- to let its citizens settle their own problems. Each time they had found themselves without foreign interference, they had managed to overcome their antagonisms. They therefore urged their usual partners to help them overcome the present crisis, instead of dividing them by canonising some and denouncing others. He said countries that regarded themselves as champions of democracy thus had the opportunity of supporting the organisation of free and transparent elections in Zaire, rather than proposing undemocratic plans which brought to power people who did not have the support of the people.

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Orville Turnquest, Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas, said today that the forthcoming fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations would provide an opportunity to assess how Member States could fulfil the principles of the Charter. The Organization had achieved many successes, including the fostering of democracy in Eastern Europe, the reduction of nuclear weapons, the establishment of the war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the repelling of aggression and the restoration of sovereignty in Kuwait. He stressed the importance of the Organization's role in the economic and social fields, and called attention to next year's World Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

In many countries, including the Bahamas, social tensions were reordering national priorities, he continued. He urged a "return to basics" in dealing with problems of a pandemic nature such as poverty, illicit drugs, crime, violence, international terrorism, human rights violations and disease, especially acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Member States were facing the disintegration of traditional values coupled with rampant unemployment. It was necessary to re-emphasize those spiritual values which respected life and the dignity and worth of the human person. He went on to say that his country was an ideal setting for difficult negotiations and offered its facilities to the United Nations for the conduct of its affairs.

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Claudette Werleigh, Haiti's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship, told the General Assembly today that for two years the Haitian people had been waging a constant struggle for the restoration of democracy and for respect for the fundamental rights stolen by the coup d'etat in 1991. Today, with the decisive help of the United Nations, Haiti was about to turn a new page in its history. She thanked Danté Caputo, Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), for his "inestimable work" in that regard. The Governors Island Agreement signed in July had set the modalities for the restoration of constitutional order and democracy in Haiti.

A new Prime Minister had taken office in August and a "Government of harmony" had been established, she continued. The economic measures adopted

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by the Security Council had been suspended and would be fully lifted at the end of the transformation process. The United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was already being deployed. Other steps remained to be taken before 30 October, when the democratically-elected President, Jean-Bertrand Arisitide, would return. She condemned the recent violence in Haiti, which clearly jeopardized the success of the Governors Island Agreement. Just a few hours earlier, armed groups had demonstrated against the arrival of the United Nations Mission. She appealed to the international community to maintain pressure so that the minority forces who opposed democracy would find themselves completely isolated and would have no alternative but to accept dialogue and reconciliation. The support of the international community would make it possible for constitutional order to be restored in Haiti, she said.

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Mouslim Ben Moussa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Comoros, told the General Assembly on Friday that it was time for the international community to hold a conference of reconciliation aimed at ending the war in Somalia. He also appealed to the people of Mozambique, Angola and Liberia to take stock of the consequences of the conflict in those countries. He went on to say that the United Nations should give priority to programmes that promoted sustainable development in view of the relationship between environment and development. He also stressed the importance of human rights programmes; since human rights could not be separated from the concept of democracy, the Organization must take action to promote the democratic process.

The young democracy of Comoros was still in a state of transition, the Foreign Minister continued. Such an enterprise required assistance from countries that loved peace and progress. Regarding the Comorian island of Mayotte, he said his country was willing to engage in dialogue with the Government of France to resolve the matter. A new impetus must be given to efforts to enable the countries of the South to extricate themselves from chaos. At the same time, an awareness of the need for self-reliance had promoted the use of regional organizations. South-South cooperation could be an important factor in global economic relations, he said.

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Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, told the General Assembly on Friday that a lot of work lay ahead for the United Nations and its organs in pursuing and preserving the peace agreement agreement between the peoples of Israel and Palestine. The agreement paved the way for other agreements between the Arabs and Israel. However, many issues would have to be resolved before a comprehensive settlement to the problems of the Middle East could be achieved. He called on all Member States to support the peace process. Regional cooperation for economic and social development remained a prerequisite for building a new system in the Middle East, he said. It was also important to remember the urgent need of the Lebanese people and to assist them in rebuilding their economic and social infrastructures.

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Oman had given priority to the promotion of youth programmes in its developmental, social and economic plans, he went on to say. A report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in September 1993 stated that Oman ranked first among Middle East and North African countries, and second worldwide, in the reduction of the infant mortality rate in the age group of five and below. Oman ranked first in the same group in vaccinating against chicken pox. In addition, 91 per cent of five-year-old children were attending elementary school, a figure which exceeded regional and international averages. While continuing to focus on youth, Oman was also working on environmental conservation for the sake of the next generation. The country had recently become a signatory to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol for ozone-layer protection, he noted.

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Bernd Niehaus-Quesada, Costa Rica's Minister of Foreign Affairs, told the General Assembly on Friday that while Israelis and Palestinians shook hands and demonstrated their good judgement, the tragedy of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to shame the world. The people of Asia, Africa and Latin America remained forgotten and marginalized and the dialogue between the North and South had been reduced to a rhetorical exercise. "What does new peace represent for the countries of the third world? " he asked. "The assurance that its children will not die under bullets, but will continue to die of hunger and of endemic diseases?"

The Foreign Minister went on to invite the members of the European Community and the producer countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to enter into a political dialogue to complement the legal agreements of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Such talks should recognize the rights of Latin American countries to sell their fruit in the common markets. While democracy was attempting to grow roots in Central America, the markets for its products in developed countries were becoming increasingly restricted and inexplicably severe attitudes had been adopted in financial negotiations. When Central America had been a region of violence, it had never been dealt with in such a way. The international community's support was indispensable if the region was to make a transition to peace, liberty and democracy, he said.

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Lionel Alexander Hurst, Chairman of Antigua and Barbuda's Delegation, said in the General Assembly on Friday that the 33 States of the Latin American and Caribbean region had quietly made tremendous strides to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and friendship. During the past year, the regional group of States had worked together to find a solution to the Haitian crisis. Brazil and Venezuela, as members of the Security Council, had made every attempt to include the entire region in the Council's decision-making process on Haiti. The peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean eagerly awaited the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti on 30

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October. No previous Security Council embargo intended to compel compliance with the will of the international community had been as swiftly effective as the embargo against the illegitimate regime in Haiti, he said.

The First Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to be convened in Barbados would be the first test of the will of the international community since last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Mr. Hurst continued. Development based on the developed world's current model of consumption, distribution and disposal was unsustainable, he stressed. Small island States were not contributing to climate change, global warming or rising sea levels, yet their existence was at stake. The Barbados Conference would articulate a programme of action to prevent those looming catastrophes and to achieve sustainable development in small island developing States, he said.

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Jean-Marie Bassia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic, told the General Assembly on Friday that the situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan should be reconsidered. The immense progress it had made in political, economic and social issues should allow it to contribute to international cooperation and participate in the activities of the United Nations. More and more States were determined to follow the Organization's principles. The desire for cooperation displayed in South Africa was also needed in the former Yugoslavia, Western Sahara, Angola and Somalia, he added.

Real solidarity should also be cultivated between developed and developing countries, especially African countries, the Foreign Minister continued. The economic situation there had deteriorated, and cooperation by the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and world economic institutions was needed. The Central African Republic was in the process of democratization and deserved international support. The time had come to bring about democratization in the United Nations, especially with respect to the Security Council, which must be adapted to new world realities. Technology had reduced the world to a global village, he went on to say, and there was a need to promote human rights and peace.

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Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Affairs Kofi Annan, Special Representative Jonathan Howe and other officials of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) today attended the inauguration of the Bakool Regional Council -- the second Regional Council to be established in Somalia. The first Council was inaugurated at Garowe on Saturday.

The formation of Somalia's first two Regional Councils is a significant advance towards establishing representative self-government for the people of Somalia, and follows months of consultations between United Nations officials and local representatives, according to a spokesman for the Organization. UNOSOM II is actively engaged in efforts to help establish District and

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Regional Councils throughout Somalia, in accordance with the Addis Ababa Agreement on national reconciliation.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, to be Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and to act as his Personal Representative to the Conference, on an interim basis, with effect from 5 December, a United Nations spokesman said today. Mr. Petrovsky will carry out those functions concurrently with his present function.

The Secretary-General appointed Abdelkader Bensmail, Chief of the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, as Deputy Secretary-General of the Disarmament Conference, also with effect from 5 December.

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The general breakdown in the cease-fire in Abhkazia has invalidated the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a report dated 7 October. However, he proposes to maintain UNOMIG's strength in Sukhumi, which has been captured by Abhkaz separatist forces. He said the presence of UNOMIG's four military observers and four civilians would ensure that pertinent information was available "from the ground" when he formulated his recommendations to the Security Council on the future role and status of the mission. The Chief Military Observer had already established contact with Abhkaz military and civil officials, and they had assured him of their cooperation.

The Secretary-General said that he would soon be consulting with the parties to the conflict and with the Russian Federation, to determine how best the United Nations could assist in bringing about a comprehensive political settlement. He said he hoped to be able to present recommendations in that regard, and on the future of UNOMIG, to the Council within two weeks or so.

When UNOMIG was established by the Council on 24 August, it was mandated to monitor the existing cease-fire with special attention to the situation in Sukhumi. Extension of the initial three-month mandate was to be dependent on substantive progress towards lasting peace.

In a related development, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that it had started an emergency airlift of food into Georgia on Friday to help the tens of thousands of people displaced by the fighting and in dire need of shelter and food. In his report on Abhkazia, Mr. Boutros-Ghali mentioned the urgent call for help made by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, and reiterated the appeal made by the Department of Humanitarain Affairs asking particularly for food, warm clothing, medical supplies and logistic support for the transport of the relief supplies.

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The United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) and the Observer Missions of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the British Commonwealth have strongly condemned the raid by a unit of the South African Defence Force on a house in Umtata, Transkei, last Thursday. In a statement issued today, UNOMSA said the raid had resulted in the brutal killing of innocent children and young people, and deplored the fact that it had been authorised by the highest levels of the South African Government.

The statement underlined the fact that the raid had taken place the day before the 184 Member States of the General Assembly decided to lift economic sanctions against South Africa, thus indicating their readiness to accept that country back "into the family of nations".

At a meeting at Headquarters today held to observe the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, Tebogo Mafole of the African National Congress said that the issue of political prisoners and of continuing political violence were lingering obstacles to the transition underway in South Africa. He told the Special Committee Against Apartheid that 86 such prisoners were presently awaiting release. He also called for the strengthening of the United Nations Observer Mission in the country.

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